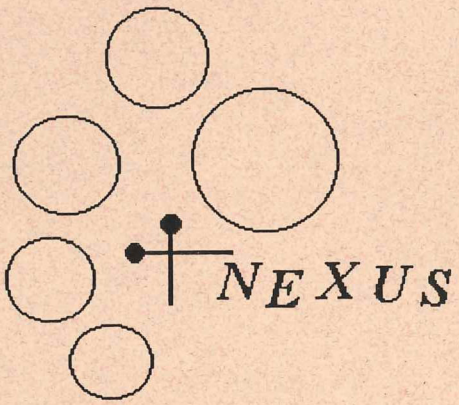
FACULTY OF MUSIC UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO

FACULTY ARTISTS SERIES



Bob Becker, Bill Cahn, Robin Engelman
Russell Hartenberger, John Wyre

Featuring

Fred Kwasi Dunyo, Ewe Master Drummer

Saturday, September 18, 1993

8pm

Walter Hall Edward Johnson Building

NEXUS

Bob Becker • Bill Cahn • Robin Engelman
Russell Hartenberger • John Wyre
Featuring Fred Kwasi Dunyo, Ewe Master Drummer

PROGRAMME

Gahu	Traditional Ewe
Mbira	Nexus
Fra-Fra	Nexus
African Funeral Tune	Nexus
Atsiagbekor	Traditional Ewe

Dancers
Kathy Armstrong, Isabel Chow, Vivian Humphreys,
Lucy Lafontaine, Lisa Lindo

❖ ❖ **INTERMISSION** ❖ ❖

Drumming	Steve Reich

Voices
Barbara Hannigan, Nanette Masson
Piccolo
Diane Aitken
Percussion
Tom Brett, David Carlisle, Christine Huang, Ryan Scott

NEXUS Representative: BETSY M. GREEN ASSOCIATES, INC.,
36 Hampshire Road, Wayland, MA 01778 USA Tel. (508) 368-2939

NEXUS gratefully acknowledges the assistance of the International Cultural Relations Bureau, External Affairs, Government of Canada and the Ontario Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Recreation

Programme Notes

Gahu

A recreational dance of the Ewe people.

Mbira

This work by Nexus features a solo on the mbira, a thumb piano played inside a resonating gourd. The mbira is a traditional instrument of the Shona of Zimbabwe.

Fra-Fra

Nexus has taken rhythms from a dance suite of the Fra-Fras of northern Ghana and fashioned a work using traditional instruments such as the dono (talking drum), brekete (one-snared drum) and axatses (gourd rattles). Other non-African instruments such as the darabuka and pan-pipes have also been added to the piece.

African Funeral Tune

This traditional Ewe funeral dirge has been transformed into a piece for marimbas and other percussion instruments.

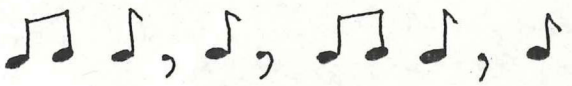
Atsiagbekor

A traditional Ewe war dance in two sections. The first part is a slow swirling dance while the second part is an energetic dance depicting scenes of battle.

Drumming

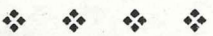
Drumming was composed in 1971. It is now recognized as a monumental work in the "minimalist" style of composition.

Drumming is based on only one rhythmic pattern:



The piece begins with a single note of the pattern. It is gradually built up until the complete pattern is played. Then one player increases speed until his pattern is one eighth-note ahead of the other player. This technique is known as "phasing". The other players play "resultant patterns", which are fragments of the basic pattern. These "resultant patterns" can be made up by the performers, but they must use only fragments of the composite sounding pattern. These fragments must be played simultaneously with the composite pattern.

These compositional techniques continue through four sections of Drumming. Part I is played on four sets of tuned bongos. Part II is for three marimbas played by up to nine percussionists, with female voices singing the "resultant patterns". Part III is for three glockenspiels with a piccolo playing the "resultant patterns". Part IV brings all the forces together from the previous three sections in the grand finale.



Tonight's Artists

Fred Kwasi Dunyo is a Master Drummer from the Ewe people of Ghana. He first visited Canada last year on a Visiting Foreign Artist grant from the Canada Council. He performed with the Flaming Donos and at the Sound Symposium in Newfoundland. This year he is continuing his work with the Flaming Donos and will then travel to the United States where he will be in residence at the University of Virginia.

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

Formed in 1971 by *Bob Becker, William Cahn, Robin Engelman, Russell Hartenberger, and John Wyre*, **NEXUS** has come to be recognized as one of the foremost chamber ensembles in the world. Through twenty years of performing together, the five members of NEXUS have developed a unique repertoire and rapport, allowing audiences to enter, experience and enjoy the special world that is a NEXUS concert.

NEXUS returned to the prestigious B.B.C. "Proms" series at the Royal Albert Hall in London, England, this summer. They had been specially invited to perform by Andrew Davis, who conducted the B.B.C. Symphony Orchestra in the British premiere of *From me flows what you call Time*, composed for NEXUS by Toru Takemitsu, Japan's most honoured composer and one of the world's most renowned contemporary composers of symphonic and chamber music.

The world premiere of *From me flows what you call Time* had been given by NEXUS in 1990 with the Boston Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Seiji Ozawa. It was commissioned by Carnegie Hall for its 100th Anniversary season. It has been performed by NEXUS with such orchestras as the Toronto, Pacific, Milwaukee, Chautauqua symphonies as well as the New Japan Philharmonic, Orchestre Nationale de Lyon and the Buffalo and Rochester Philharmonics.

NEXUS' 1993-94 season includes performances with the U.S. Air Force Band in Washington, D.C., a concert in the new North York Performing Arts Centre during the Centre's opening season and concerts in the United States, Singapore, India, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Japan.

❖ ❖ ❖ ❖

Join us for

Two Celebration Concerts

as part of the

Faculty Artists Series

Saturday, October 30, 1993

A MacMillan Centenary Celebration

The St. Lawrence String Quartet

perform

Chamber Works by

Sir Ernest MacMillan

Saturday, November 20, 1993

A Celebration in Honour

of the Faculty of Music's

75th Anniversary

Chamber Works by Professors Emeriti:

Becwith, Kennins, Morawetz, and Weinzweig

All Concerts at 8 pm in Walter Hall

Tickets $15/$10 students, seniors

Box Office 978-3744